

*B1 cont*  
detachably mounted on the frame. This frame is preferably adapted for use with robotic tools such as the BIOMEK® Gripper Tool.

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Please replace the last paragraph on page 8, lines 26-31, with the following text:

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*B2*  
The fixture 32 has an interior chamber 34 connectable to a vacuum source (not shown) via channels 34a, and a plurality of orifices 36 located on the top surface and connected to the interior chamber 34. The orifices 36 are located within the depressions 38 in the embodiment of Fig. 3(a), or at locations corresponding to the bottom of the wells 16 in the embodiment of Fig. 3(c). When a vacuum is drawn in the interior chamber 34, the vacuum is communicated via the orifices 36 to create a negative pressure to hold the

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Please replace the second full paragraph on page 12, lines 6-30, with the following text:

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*B3*  
The application of the A<sup>2</sup> plate and the fixture apparatus in the microarray assay system and process is described with reference to Fig. 9. The microarray assay system 90 includes the following modular units: a microarray printer 92, a robotics workstation 94 such as Biomek robotic station, a hybridization hotel 96, and transport system 98 such as an ORCA® arm and slide rail. The various modular units have been used in microarray assay systems that use conventional glass slide microarrays or conventional multi well assays, and may be adapted to work with the A<sup>2</sup> plate and fixture apparatuses. The printer 92 is used to print microarrays of probes such as cDNA, oligo, protein, etc. onto the array of arrays microplate 91. When printing, the A<sup>2</sup> plate is positioned on the vacuum fixture and the vacuum is drawn. An array spotter, such as Cartesian's BioDot Arrayer, deposits an array of probes inside each well. Arrays of many hundreds of probes can be printed. After printing, the microplate is transported either to the robotic workstation 94 for processing of samples under automated hybridization or incubation, or transferred to the hybridization hotel 96 for storage. For hybridization and incubation, samples and reagents are deposited into the